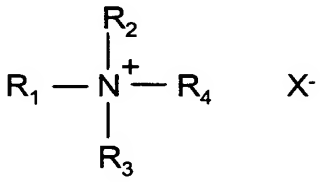
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially ~~consisting~~ of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



wherein R_1 is C_8-C_{22}-alkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkylamidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkanoylethyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenoylethyl, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-$(OA)_n$-OH, A is -C_2H_4- and/or -C_3H_6-, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion,

b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and

c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of [[as a solvent there may be used the following ones,]]
an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula R-O-$(AO)_nH$, where R is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, A is C_2H_4 [[and/or]] or C_3H_6 and mixtures thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20,
nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula C_9H_{19}-phenyl-O-$(AO)_nH$, where A and n are as defined above, and mixtures thereof
~~which composition is characterized in that it contains less than 20 % by weight of water~~.

2.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

3.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an C_8-C_{22}-alkyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium.

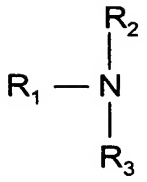
4.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the [[non ionic]] non-ionic solvent c).

5.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

6.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which the ~~non-ionic~~ non-ionic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, a ethoxylated nonylphenol, and a mixture thereof ~~or a mix of these compounds~~.

7.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 in the compound a) is defined as C_1-C_{22}-alkyl or C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl, ~~which process consists in~~ said process comprising:

reacting an amine of the formula



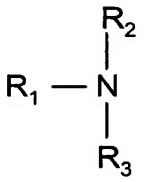
wherein ~~R_1, R_2 and R_3 are~~

R_1 is C_8-C_{22}-alkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkylamidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkanoylethyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenoylethyl, R_2 and R_3 are C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-$(OA)_n$-OH, wherein A is $-C_2H_4-$ or $-C_3H_6-$, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20

~~as defined above~~ with a halo alkyl or halo alkenyl of the formula R_4-X wherein R_4 is C_1-C_{22}-alkyl or C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl and X is chlorine or bromine in the presence of said [[a]] non-ionic solvent c) ~~as defined in claim 1~~.

8.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 in the cationic compound a) is defined as a group of the formula -A-$(OA)_n$OH wherein A is $-C_2H_4-$ or $-C_3H_6-$, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20, ~~A and n are as defined in claim 1, which process consists of~~ said process comprising:

reacting an amine of the formula



wherein R_1 is C_8-C_{22}-alkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkylamidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8-C_{22}-alkanoylethyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenoylethyl, R_2 and R_3 are C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-$(OA)_n$-OH, wherein A is $-C_2H_4-$ or $-C_3H_6-$, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20

with an inorganic monohalo [[halo]] acid and than reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

9.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 7 [[or 8]], wherein the amine is C_8-C_{22}-alkyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

10.(Currently Amended) ~~Process, according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous, hydrochloric acid.

11.(Currently Amended) ~~Process, according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.

12.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the non ionic solvent is Coconut PEG 7.

13.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.

14.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.

15.(New) The process of claim 8, wherein the amine is C_8-C_{22}-alkyl or C_8-C_{22}-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.